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Global Mobile Vision: Update after ex-employee meeting

I have attended the meeting of GlobalMobileVision.com ex-workers, as earlier written about. The meeting took place in Buswells Hotel, opposite Leinster House, the seat of the Irish Government.

Approximately 40 people were in attendance, most notably Independent TD [Finian McGrath](#) including another public representative (who's name I did not catch) a number of journalists, including a TV cameraman. Mr. McGrath sent apologies from [TD Joe Higgins](#) who said he was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. McGrath started the meeting by saying it was a story of tremendous fear, intimidation, strange work practices, work to rule, a story of secret sleepers. Everyone in attendance at the meeting was in agreement that the work practices in place in Global Mobile Vision were definately strange, and bizarre, to say the least.

He introduced a number of people at the panel, including John Bates, the GMV employee who is currently suspended, after an attempted search of his personal belongings was aborted by GMV security staff.

Mr. Bates spoke about the harrowing experience he underwent last week. This was fully detailed in the Village article, linked to [here](#). Some points to mention, with respect to the ordeal are:

* Mr. Bates was surrounded by up to 9 members of staff, including Mr. Crownborn, Mr. Alex Fitzgearld, and a large number of staff from “[Crimeforce Ireland](#)” Security staff.

* Mr. Fitzgearld goaded Mr. Bates saying “why are you so nervous”, “whats wrong with you”

When it came to the workers being paid, the strange business got stranger. New workers were told that they had to wait for at least a month before being paid, that their pay would be transferred by electronic banking. A large number of workers waited for up to 10 weeks for pay. Mr. John Bates (mentioned in the Village magazine article) said that everyone understood the idea of a startup company. That they had no problem in allowing their payment “sliding for a week or so”. That was the nature of working in a start-up company he said. But these workers were not told when they would be paid. When they asked where was their pay, they were told that there was a problem with the electronic banking, or the the payroll company.

A litany of mistakes (lies?) in respect to payment were discussed. Most notably the lack of payment, the delay, and then what shocked me the most. A number of employees when they were finally paid (most last week, approx. friday), received P45s either with parts of the printed form missing, or two P45s, with different entries on either. One particular ex-employee, who had had to travel to his home country to get a work permit to work in Ireland had received two different P45s. One stating his correct leaving date, and stating he had paid €XX in tax, and ***another*** last week, which stated a ***different*** leaving date, with a different amount of tax paid.

Some ex-employees had telephoned the Tax Office asking about discrepancies in their payment records, only to be told by the Tax Office that they had not been registered as working for any company, definitely not a company named Global Mobile Vision.

This brings about the question, have GMV been declaring, any, if not all of their employees with the Tax Office? This would be one question to be answered.

Ex-employees spoke of the difficulty in getting their payment. Some said that when employees asked about their payment, and if they became too “vocal” they were fired. The management had no compassion towards the workers one ex-member of staff said. The management did not seem to care about the livelihoods of employees who had left good, stable, paying jobs to come and work for this “startup”. One gave an example of one worker who was told to “look up the Internet for some research” on his first day, by Mr. Crownborn. He was then told that he could go after few hours. Mr. Crownborn said that he “did not like him after he found out” that the man was in fact married, and not single, as he had written on his CV. When asked by another member of staff, the man said he wrote he was single as he had had problems in the past when he said he was married. The man was never told that he had been fired, or left go. He had no communication with the management after that.

When this issue came to public light, employees were told not to talk to ex-employees as they were “part of a malicious campaign against Global Mobile Vision”.

Discussion then turned to the allegations of sexual harrasment. Although GMV denied this and said it has “a strict anti-harassment policy which is clearly stated in the company handbook and reiterated during staff meetings and at staff induction”, a number of ex-employees, particularly female, said they had been witness or had been treated like this. One woman, obviously distressed, spoke about male members of the management “massaging the backs of women” and “having to give you your hug when you arrived in the morning”. A “hub of female staff” was spoken about, which surrounded a male member of staff.

Another member of staff spoke about fire escapes being routinely blocked. Since there were bars on the windows on the ground floor, if there was a fire, or some emergency, you had to go to the second floor by stairs and jump from the second floor windows. This completely contravened health and safety regulations.

The meeting then turned to the question of the clients and backers of the Global Mobile Vision company. The question of the obvious links to Christian evangelists, the claim to supply content “from American evangelist television channels, JCTV, The Church Channel, TBN and The Daystar Television Network” raises more questions.

Do these companies in the US actually know of the claims and the mistreatment of GMV workers in Dublin? Would they be willing to be involved with a company who treated their workers like this?

Ex-employees spoke about the holding of religious ceremonies in the GMV offices in Dublin, although religious ideals were not pushed on the staff members. Mr. Bates spoke of connections to the “Victory Ireland Church” and the Vineyard Community (I can find concrete links to neither anywhere on the Internet) both based in Dublin, where Mr. Crownborn and his associates were both established members.

Mr. McGrath paid tribute to the ex-employees and the current employees who were in pursuit of the truth with

regards to the goings-on at Global Mobile Vision. He said he had met with a number of people who were visibly in fear for their situations. He said he had the upmost respect for them, and that he would follow this to the end.

When I raised the point that Global Mobile Vision had not been registered with the CRO in Dublin, and that they were trading under a CRO number that did not exist, Mr. McGrath agreed that this was a very worrying and serious matter.

I also raised the point that, Global Mobile Vision had been set up in the UK in August 2004 (as stated in the Village article) and they had moved to Ireland in November 2004. I asked had anyone investigated why they had moved to Ireland so soon after starting up. Surely a startup does not just up sticks and move to another country, for no real reason I said.

I raised the point that for a IT/techology company, there were no mentions to Global Mobile Vision *anywhere* on the Internet. For a IT company involved in 3G telecommunications, this was very strange. Mr. Bates said that the company had purchased an actual IT company [Yard Broacast Network](#), a number of years ago.

The sellers of the YBN company are in legal proceedings against GMV due to alleged non-full payment of due monies, after the sale of YBN.

Finally I asked the question “was it not fair to say that this company moved from one country and set up shop in Ireland, almost a year ago, and was it not safe to assume that this might be in the pipelines now, as all these irregularaities have come to the publics attention”. If the authorities here do not move quickly, the Irish government could be left with a small scale scandal on their hands. After all they did receive IDA grants for business they were supposed to be doing.

Mr. Bates agreed and stated that at the moment, a number of members of the management are on “business trips in the US, namely Florida, looking to create business links and begin work on projects in the US. But before this can happen he says, they need to have staff employed in the US.

Mr. McGrath stated that he feared this was also the case, and that he had went on record in the Oireachtas asking questions of the relevant ministers involved in industry.

The meeting then ended and I left.

This matter will hopefully grow in public knowledge this week, as more media organisations receive the story.

This entry was posted on Saturday, June 11th, 2005 at 6:36 pm and is filed under [internet](#), [bernard](#), [politics/world affairs](#), [irishblogs](#), [globalmobilevision](#), [globalmobilevision.com](#), [tagbomb](#), [tagmob](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

4 Responses to “Global Mobile Vision: Update after ex-employee meeting”

1. [GMV Response](#) Says:
[June 11th, 2005 at 9:57 pm](#)

GMV categorically rejects the allegations made against the company. The persons making the unfounded allegations are former employees most of whom were trainees with less than three months’ service. They were let go by GMV prior to completing their probationary period because they were not suitable for the opportunities available. In the case of one former employee who was still in training, the company had a concern for the security of its intellectual property.

The company’s response to the specific allegations raised is as follows:

An employee was restrained from leaving the premises: Not true. The trainee was asked to leave the

premises and was free to go at any time but refused to leave a bag behind for searching.

The guards were called: The company called the guards when the trainee threatened company personnel and refused to allow his bag to be searched. The gardai came and the trainee then left.

Theft: The company's concern regarding the possible theft of material has since been proved correct. GMV now has evidence that company property was stolen from its premises by a former trainee and that intellectual property was also stolen in breach of employment contracts. GMV is a high technology company with valuable intellectual property. The company's business would be threatened by unauthorised disclosure of its property to competitors. GMV adopts normal commercial precautions to protect its property. Regrettably, the developments of recent days prove that its concerns were well founded.

Bullying, threats and intimidation: The only threats, bullying and intimidation have been against the company. These threats came from particular former trainees who have engaged in a hostile campaign for reasons best known to themselves.

GMV does not understand the motivation of these former employees in making unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations against the company.

GMV is currently expanding and has recruited a number of new staff as part of this programme. The staff let go were some of those recruited for the expansion. The majority of the trainees recruited remain with the company, which has expanded its workforce in recent months.

The employees who have proven their abilities are happy with GMV and are working hard to ensure its success. It is deeply troubling to all that a few disgruntled trainees have gone to such efforts to try to sabotage the hard work of so many others.

2. RAtz Says:

[June 14th, 2005 at 4:49 pm](#)

GMV UPDATE

Investors

- > Pastors: Brendan & Sheila Hade
- > Victory Christian Fellowship,
- > 35 Westland Row,
- > Dublin 2
- > 01- 661 0388
- > www.victory.ie

> Bookstore, Church at Westland Row,

> <http://www.dublinchurches.com/churches/259.htm>

- > also involved in Victory Outreach a drug rehab project in Ossory Rd
- > Ind estate East Wall also believed to be involved in refugee
- > accomedations? perhaps part funded by
- > Central Government??
- >
- > Their Church
- > Gerry Byrne connected to
- >

- > Southside Vineyard
- > Leaders: ,Sean & Debbie Byrne
- >
- > Riverbank house, Ballyboden rd
- > Rathfarnham
- > Dublin 6W
- > Telephone: 4937469
- > Mon to Fri 10:00am until 1:00pm
- >
- > Email: office@dublinvineyard.ie
- > Website: www.dublinvineyard.ie
- > Morning Service: Sunday: 11:00am Spawell Leisure
- > Centre in Templeogue, (no morning service the
- > last Sunday of the month)
- > Evening Service: Sunday: 7:00pm Spawell Leisure
- > Centre in Templeogue, only on the last Sunday of
- > the month.

3. *Pope-Benedict-XV* Says:

[June 14th, 2005 at 4:59 pm](#)

‘The Crownborns are giving GOD a bad name.
not one Christian amongst them!’

Pope-Benedict-XV

4. *rh* Says:

[June 15th, 2005 at 5:11 pm](#)

- > Mr. Bates spoke of connections to the “Victory Ireland
- > Church” and the Vineyard Community (I can find concrete
- > links to neither anywhere on the Internet) both based
- > in Dublin, where Mr. Crownborn and his associates were
- > both established members.

You might be referring to an outfit called ‘Victory Outreach’ which is an evangelical outfit which claims to be interested in saving the souls of drug addicts and the like. Their dublin website is at: ‘<http://www.victoryoutreachdublin.org/> and they used to have a public bulletin board until somebody noticed it (see the middle bit of this message, concerning how they say that they operate <http://www.boards.ie/vbulletin/showpost.php?p=2687150&postcount=3>)

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